the total population of the State and the proportion which each community bore to the same, it would be seen that out of 563 appointments included in the Civil List, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 and above, Christians were eligible only for 165 appointments and the Brahmins 9. But as a matter of fact, Christians held 171 and Brahmins 216 appointments respectively. Out of the 171 appointments thus held by Christians, the bulk was enjoyed by the Jacobite Syrians who were numerically inferior as compared with certain other sections of the community. If the separation of Devaswoms from the Land Revenue Department was to be effected with the avowed object of giving more appointments to the Christian community, it would be inequitable, especially because Christians were pleading for equality in the public service.

As regards the Nairs, it was sad to note that they held only 119 appointments. Most of the Pandaravagai properties were those that escheated to the Sirkar from Nair families. In the circumstances, the Member prayed that the inequality noticed above in the case of his community should be removed.

The system of competitive examinations in the matter of recruitment to the public service was condemned by the Member on the ground that its introduction would lead to hardship. A definite percentage of appointments should be set apart for each community. He also prayed that the appointments in the Devaswom Department should not be taken into account as Government appointments for the above purpose.

Dewan's reply.—I must thank you for the interesting speech you have made. The matter referred to is one which is receiving the attention of Government, and as you know, it is a vexed question. All your remarks will be carefully borne in mind.

155. Share of Government appointments for Christians in South Travancore with special reference to the lower ranks.

Mr. Simeon Fletcher (Member, Nominated) began by saying that he confined himself to the case of the Christian community in South Travancore and their entertainment in the non-gazetted staff or lower ranks. His prayer for the better encouragement of the community in the matter of entertainment in the public service chiefly rested on the fact that the adoption of such a policy by the Government would be a powerful stimulus to the spread of education among the members of the community. The Christians in South Travancore were not behind other communities in the matter of number, literacy or material advancement; nay, they were even ahead of them in those respects. Still their share in the public service was considerably small. The Land Revenue service was closed to them. As regards other Departments like the Police, Public works, Anchal, Judicial, etc., there too the number of Christians employed was very small. This stepmotherly treatment meted out by Government to the Christian community in South Travancore had the effect of driving many an educated youth to seek his fortunes in distant places like Ceylon, Burma and Singapore. A large number of them were also working in the hills. The Christians suffered considerably for lack of official patronage. The most effective means of securing a fair representation of all communities in the public service was to fix a definite proportion of appointments for each community. It would not be too much, he said, if a proportion not less than 15 per cent of the lower ranks of the public service was fixed for the Christians in South Travancore.

Dewan's reply.—I am sorry that I cannot give you any other reply than what I have already given to other Members. The improvement of the methods of recruitment is engaging the attention of Government.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-45 P. M.

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